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and perhaps to some economies. The convenience and fullness of the information is demonstrated to the evident satisfaction of the inquirers.

There seemed to be doubt in the minds of some whether these records were open to inspection. They are at all times open to the inspection of any interested citizen or official.

STATISTICS EXAMINATION.

In the *Manual of Examinations for the Classified Civil Service of the United States*, July 1, 1899, notice is given of the character of the examination for statistical field agent for the Fish Commission. Among the eight subjects is one entitled "Compilation of Statistics." The following questions indicate the character of the examination on this topic:—

On an accompanying blank sheet make a table including the following data and showing the increase or decrease, together with the per cent of increase or decrease, in the catch of each of the two varieties of fish in each of the Great Lakes for the years 1890 and 1893. Make a full heading to your table; compute percentages to one decimal place of per cent.

The yield of trout in Lake Superior in 1890 was 2,613,378 pounds; and in 1893, 4,342,122 pounds. The yield of whitefish in 1890 was 3,213,176 pounds; and in 1893, 2,769,088 pounds. The yield of trout and whitefish in Lake Michigan in 1890 was 8,364,167 pounds and 5,455,079 pounds, respectively; and in 1893, 8,216,920 pounds and 4,833,691 pounds. In 1890 Lake Huron produced 1,505,619 pounds trout and 1,004,094 pounds whitefish; and in 1893, 3,439,575 pounds trout and 1,222,687 pounds whitefish. The catch of trout in Lake Erie in 1890 and 1893 was 121,420 pounds and 203,132 pounds, respectively, and the catch of whitefish in the same years was 2,341,451 pounds and 1,292,410 pounds. In 1890 Lake Ontario yielded 41,010 pounds trout and 148,771 pounds whitefish; and in 1893, 6204 pounds trout and 45,380 pounds whitefish.

Write a discussion of not less than 300 nor more than 400 words giving an analysis of the statistics from the table prepared by you as

required by the preceding sheet, and make such comments, deductions, and observations concerning the facts presented as may seem to be appropriate.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The following is taken from the *Twelfth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Record of Parishes, Towns, and Counties in Massachusetts*. (Robert T. Swan, Commissioner.)

A number of the city and town clerks who are engaged in indexing the records of births, marriages, and deaths are supplying the omissions in the early records by including in the indexes names and facts taken from church records, and in a few instances from gravestones. Some of the committees having in charge the preparation of the records for printing have pursued the same course, in both cases the source of the information being given. This action is highly commended, as in very many cases the church records were much more carefully kept, and are more complete than the town records. This is especially true of the records of baptisms, a baptism being considered by the church members as of the greatest importance, while a return of the birth to the town clerk was apparently often a matter of chance. In some towns branches of certain families appear in the church records, while other branches of the same family, evidently not recognized as church members, do not appear. In the absence of the town record, the latter are nowhere recorded. In such cases the inscriptions on the gravestones furnish the only record.

The inscription is often the only existing record of a death, and, as the age is usually given, the year of birth, if not the day, can be obtained, thereby supplying the record of birth, as well as death. In the case of persons born in England, the age upon the gravestone often furnishes the clue to identification of a birth recorded there.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, recognizing the importance of inscriptions on gravestones, has, through a committee, undertaken to procure copies of the inscriptions in all the graveyards in New England, on the gravestones of persons who died prior to 1842. It is the plan of the committee to have these copies deposited in the rooms of the society, which are open to the public, or, if they